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**CLAY CROSS
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1956**

BY

JOHN REID GRAHAM

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 1956

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith present the Annual Report on the health of the Urban District for the year 1956.

The vital statistics show one difference from the year before in that the infantile death rate has increased considerably from the previous year's record low rate of 25 per 1000 live births to 45 per 1000 live births. In actual figures this means that there were three more infant deaths than in the previous year.

Again it is pleasing to record that no deaths occurred from Puerperal Causes.

Progress has been made with the Housing Programme under the five years clearance scheme but one difficulty that may hinder progress is the provision of new houses to cope with the rehousing of some of the comparatively large clearance areas in the Urban District.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN R. GRAHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Staff.

Medical Officer of Health :

JOHN R. GRAHAM, M.B., Ch.B. (St. And.),
D.P.H. (St. And.).

Sanitary Inspector :

L. WILSON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Vital Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Population (Registrar-General's figures) 8,950

Birth Rate :

17.32 per 1,000 live births of the resident population.

17.43 per 1,000 live and still births.

Death Rate :

10.95 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :

From Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
From Other Causes	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Infantile Death Rate :

All Infants per 1,000 live births 45.16

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate live births 46.36

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births Nil

Births in Clay Cross Urban District.

Live Births :

Males :	Total 78	Legitimate 76	Illegitimate 2
Females :	Total 77	Legitimate 75	Illegitimate 2

Still Births :

Males :	Total Nil.		
Females :	Total 1	Legitimate 1	Illegitimate 0

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :

Males :	Total 2	Legitimate 2	Illegitimate 0
Females :	Total 2	Legitimate 2	Illegitimate 0

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age :

Males :	Total 2	Legitimate 2	Illegitimate 0
Females :	Total 1	Legitimate 1	Illegitimate 0

Causes of Death
In the Clay Cross District during 1956.

			Males	Females
All Causes	...	...	58	40
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	0	0
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	0	0
Syphilitic disease	...	...	0	0
Diphtheria	...	...	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	0	0
Meningococcal Infections	...	...	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	0	0
Measles	...	...	0	0
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...	...	0	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	4	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	3	0
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	0	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	0	0
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	4	1
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	0	0
Diabetes	...	...	2	1
Vascular lesions of Nervous System	...	...	5	0
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	12	1
Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	1	0
Other Heart Disease	...	...	7	15
Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	2	5
Influenza	...	...	0	0
Pneumonia	...	...	1	1
Bronchitis	...	...	6	0
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	1	0
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	0	0
Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	0	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	1	0
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...	0	0
Congenital Malformations	...	...	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	2	3
Motor Vehicle accidents	...	...	3	2
All other accidents	...	...	1	3
Suicide	...	...	1	1
Homicide and operations of war	...	...	0	0

Deaths in Age Groups, 1956.

		Males	Females	Total
Under 1 year ...	...	2	2	4
1—5 years ...	...	0	0	0
5—10 years ...	...	1	1	2
10—15 years ...	...	0	0	0
15—20 years ...	...	0	2	2
20—25 years ...	...	0	1	1
25—35 years ...	...	0	1	1
35—45 years ...	...	4	0	4
45—55 years ...	...	3	3	6
55—65 years ...	...	7	3	10
65—70 years ...	...	6	4	10
70—75 years ...	...	16	7	23
75—80 years ...	...	10	5	15
80—85 years ...	...	6	6	12
85—90 years ...	...	3	4	7
90—95 years ...	...	0	1	1
		—	—	—
		58	40	98
		—	—	—

Social Circumstances.

There have been no industrial developments of any moment during the year and as I reported previously the advent of some light industry would be welcome.

Housing.

The new estate at Holmgate is now a complete integrated unit and in layout, etc., compares most favourably with any local authority housing estate.

It was hoped that the demolition and development of the Long Rows site would have been started this year, but owing to certain, shall we say legal complications, no start has yet been possible.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The Engineer Reports :—

“An entirely new sewage disposal system costing approximately £25,000, which was commenced in 1955, has now been completed and is in operation. This scheme was necessary due to the building of the Holmgate Estate, the sewerage of Ashover Road, and also provides for the eventual sewerage of Stretton Road.”

Infectious Diseases.

Though there was a considerable epidemic of measles the cases were in the main of a mild type. No deaths were attributable to any of the ordinary infectious diseases. One case of non-paralytic poliomyelitis was notified during the year.

It was rather disturbing to record however that there were five fatal road accidents in the Urban District Area during the year compared with one the previous year. Despite all precautions the increase in the number of power driven vehicles on the roads increases inevitably the number of persons “at risk” and in some years the toll is bound to be high.

National Assistance Act.

No action was called for under the Act during the year.

Infectious Diseases.

			Total number notified	Cases Admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	...	...	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	26	13	0
Diphtheria	...	...	0	0	0
Enteric Fever	...	...	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	1	1	0
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	0	0	0
Erysipelas	...	...	4	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	0	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	1	0	0
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	...	...	0	0	0
Poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic)	...	...	1	0	0
Pneumonia	...	...	29	1	5
Measles	...	...	198	3	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	23	4	0

Tuberculosis Return for 1956.

Age period in years	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	PULMONARY.		NON-PULMONARY.		PULMONARY.		NON-PULMONARY	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5—14	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15—24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25—44	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
45—64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and over	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Age unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	NOT NOTIFIED.				NOT PRIMARY.			
Cases included above	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the year 1956.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Clay Cross Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit my Annual Report on the work of the Health and Cleansing Department for the year 1956.

No request has been received from the County Council for their usual report and the following figures are supplied in lieu.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT VISITS AND INSPECTIONS.

Water Supply	...	...	...	26
Drainage	...	...	...	236
Factories	...	...	...	11
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	223
Housing	...	...	...	534
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	63
Public Cleansing	...	...	...	438
Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	10
Miscellaneous and others	...	...	...	477
Total				2,018

FOOD INSPECTION VISITS.

Meat Inspection	...	...	...	265
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	55
Other Food Premises	...	...	...	41
Miscellaneous Food Visits	...	...	...	18
		Total	...	<hr/> 399 <hr/>
Number of complaints received	...		...	397
Nuisances abated	...	...	...	135

WATER SUPPLIES.

			Estimated Population involved
No. of houses in district connected to mains	3,063		8,855
No. of houses in district supplied from stand- pipes or mains	...	7	25
No. of houses in district not supplied from standpipes or mains	...	25	70
No. of connections made during year :			
(a) Existing houses	...	0	
(b) New houses	...	23	
(c) Other premises	...	0	

DRAINAGE

			Estimated Population involved
Number of houses in district connected to sewers	...	2,953	8,550
Number of houses in district not connected to sewers	...	130	400
Number of connections made during year :			
(a) Existing houses	...	—	
(b) New Houses	...	23	
(c) Other premises	...	—	
Number of conversions of other closets to W.C.'s		0	

HOUSING

New Houses erected during year (including flats) by			
(a) Local Authority	...	...	18
(b) Private Enterprise	...	...	5
Number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...		117
Number of houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...		117
Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	13
Number of defective houses rendered fit in conse- quence of action (formal or informal) by Local Authority	...	...	75

Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	2
Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition or Clearance Orders	...	...	...	49
Number of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	0

Petroleum (Regulations) Acts 1928-1936

Your Sanitary Inspector is responsible for the administration of the Petroleum Acts, which are mainly concerned with the storage of petroleum spirit and the licensing of such stores. Thirteen licences to store petroleum spirit are held in the Urban District providing for a maximum storage capacity of 76,000 gallons. Licence Fees amount to £14 10 0. Two new 500 gallon underground tanks were approved by your inspector.

Two licences were renewed for the storage of Calcium Carbide, the fees amount to 15/-.

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

This has been a difficult year for rodent control. A part time Rodent Operator is necessary, but it has not been found possible to find a man suitable for training in methods of rodent destruction approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Warfarin has again been widely and successfully used during the year.

The annual sewer test was undertaken in October, when 17 manholes selected to cover the whole of the sewered area of the Urban District, were baited with damp sausage rusk. No takes were recorded.

Rats have been something of a problem on the refuse tip because of the difficulty of maintaining treatments.

The following treatments for rats and mice were carried out during the year.

Refuse Tip	...	2
Depot	...	1
Sewerage Works	...	2
Dwelling Houses	...	59
Other Premises	...	7

71

During the year it was decided to charge for business premises in order to qualify for a grant from the Ministry of Agriculture towards the cost of Rodent Control. This charge was fixed at 9/6d. per hour which is an inclusive charge for bait, poison, material and labour. It may be a coincidence, but there has been a reduction in the number of notifications of infestations of business premises.

Housing

The remaining two occupiers of The Blocks Danesmoor, were rehoused, and all 48 of these houses demolished.

A Public Enquiry into the Clearance Area of 14 houses was held on 7th December, 1955. The Minister's confirmation of the Clearance Order was received on 10th February, 1956. A Clearance Order on a further 11 houses was confirmed in October, 1956. Two Individual Demolition Orders were made under section 11 of the Housing Act 1936. Rehousing of the occupants of these condemned houses has been very slow, due to the cessation of Council House building, and only 10 families have been rehoused during the year. Towards the end of the year a start was made in the preparation for clearing the 88 houses in the Long Rows.

The Government has decreed that Councils must concentrate on slum clearance, but in this area there still seems to be a shortage of accommodation.

Applications for the Improvement of 9 houses were granted (5 of these houses being occupied by tenants), 6 of which were completed during the year, plus 4 granted the previous year. I would like much wider use to be made of these grants—the only method of raising the standard of the older houses in the district.

Public Cleansing Services

This has been the most difficult year I have experienced for the refuse collection service. Towards the end of the year a complete breakdown of the service seemed inevitable, but there was a sudden (and inexplicable) improvement in the labour situation. In the winter months especially, any arrears of collection which may occur are most difficult to retrieve. All the men employed on Refuse Collection are taken for snow clearing and road gritting, as necessary. A weekly collection for most of the district has been maintained for most of the year, and due to the widespread use of con-

cessionary coal such a schedule must be maintained. I consider that a dustbin maintenance scheme will have to be considered by the Council to ensure that each house has a proper dustbin. The small number of ashpits in the area have had only an irregular service. The workmen have received their annual wage award.

The emptying of cesspools has been carried out reasonably satisfactorily, but I must emphasise again that it is usually impossible to cleanse cesspools without a few days notice.

Street Cleansing in the centre of the town has been carried out regularly and efficiently, but the other areas of the district are not receiving enough attention. The Council are responsible for cleansing some 13 miles of roads and streets. It is hoped to introduce some litter bins during 1957, and it is to be hoped that the general public will co-operate in using them.

Incidentally, it is an offence, carrying a £5 penalty, to litter the streets.

351 street gullies were cleansed during May by a Gully Emptier, hired from Chesterfield Borough Council. This total does not include any gullies on County Roads. An Annual cleansing is not sufficient, particularly for the older type which have a smaller capacity, and some of these have had to be emptied by hand.

The replacement of the Karrier Bantam has again been deferred.

Refuse Disposal.

Refuse disposal by controlled tipping has been carried out at the Chesterfield Road Tip. It is estimated that more than 3,300 tons of refuse are collected and disposed of annually.

Tip fires have not been a problem this year due to the exceptionally wet summer, but fires that started in the summer of the previous year are still burning although well under control. Tip maintenance has again been neglected owing to the shortage of labour. A full time attendant is necessary if tipping is to be carried out in a proper manner.

The front area of the tip, which in previous seasons has been cultivated, has been used to store soil which will be needed in the redevelopment of the Long Rows. The appearance of the tip has suffered greatly, but it is hoped that it will soon be possible to resume cultivation of this area, and also when it is certain that the tip fires have died out to extend this cultivable area. The grass strip, flower beds and trees in front of the hedge have been much admired, and further improvements will be made as circumstances and funds allow.

Cricket infestations were not a problem, again due to the poor summer weather. Rats are still a serious problem, due to the difficulty in securing regular treatments, and the comparatively large area of ground to be covered.

Collections.

Number of dustbins (weekly)	...	...	3270
Number of privvies (emptied when possible)	...	...	30
Number of pails (weekly)	...	...	24
Number of cesspools emptied (as requested)	...	...	73

Salvage.

The tonnage of waste paper collected and sold was well below last year's record figure, in fact the lowest since 1953. The year got away to a bad start owing to severe weather conditions, when the men were largely employed on snow clearing and gritting. Resulting arrears of refuse collections had to be made up before salvage operations were resumed. There was once again a glut of waste paper and deliveries to the mills were restricted to some degree, although our contract with Thames Board Mills saved us from the worst effects of a surplus in the waste paper market. These conditions seem likely to prevail well into 1957. The salvage of loose tins from the tip was restricted due to the shortage of labour.

SALVAGED MATERIALS, 1956.

		Tons	cwts.	qrs.	£	s.	d.
Paper	....	75	12	3	592	16	5
Scrap Metal	....	2	14	0	12	13	0
Loose Tins	....	3	6	2	13	9	9
		81	13	1	£618	19	2

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

Four private slaughterhouses have been in use during the year. I wish to express my thanks to the owners of these slaughterhouses for their friendly and willing co-operation in ensuring that all carcasses were inspected.

Weights of Meat and Offal Condemned

		Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Meat (Tuberculosis)	...		5	0	0
Meat (other causes)	...		4	0	12
Offal (Tuberculosis)	...		9	0	13
Offal (other causes)	...		8	3	3
		1	7	1	0

The following table concerning the post mortem inspection of animals is in accordance with circular 17/55 of the Ministry of Health.

**Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned
in whole or parts.**

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
NUMBER KILLED ...	105 (including 3 bulls)	318	37	564	340	Nil
NUMBER INSPECTED	105	318	37	564	340	
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :						
Whole carcasses condemned	0	1	0	0	0	
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ...	2	68	0	3	0	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis or Cysticerci ...	1·90	21·38		0·53		
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcasses condemned	0	1	0	0	0	
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ..	4	46	0	0	0	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis...	3·80	14·46				
Cysticercosis :						
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ...	0	0	0	0	0	
Carcases submitted to tre- atment by refrigeration ...	0	0	0	0	0	
Generalised and totally condemned ...	0	0	0	0	0	

Condemned Canned and Other Foodstuffs.

Meats (various)	210 tins	Tomatoes	141 tins
Fruit	108 tins	Vegetables	27 tins
Fish	18 tins	Milk	12 tins
Soup	7 tins	Cheese	112 lbs.

Ice Cream.

No ice cream has been manufactured in the district during the year.

During the year three premises were registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the sale of pre-packed Ice Cream.

The total number of premises in the district registered for the sale of Ice Cream is now thirty six.

Milk Supply.

There are 20 producers of milk in the Urban District, three of which are producer-retailers, but by far the greater part of the milk trade is now in the hands of the big dairy companies. Clay Cross forms part of a Specified Area which means that only Tuberculin Tested, Pasturised and Sterilised Milks are sold by retail in the area.

Sampling (Food and Drugs Act), 1955.

Statutory sampling is carried out by Officers of Derbyshire County Council. The following information has been supplied by the County Analyst, Mr. R. W. Sutton, B.Sc., F.R.I.C., F.C.S.

"44 samples, including 13 milks, were taken under the above act, in the area of the Clay Cross Urban District Council during the year 1956.

One sample of T.T. milk was deficient in fat, and the vendor was cautioned.

The remaining samples of milk, and all samples of food other than milk, were classed as satisfactory."

Factories Act, 1937.**INSPECTIONS.**

Premises	No.	Inspections
Factories with mechanical power	32	13
Factories without mechanical power	3	1
Other premises under the Act	2	1
	<hr/> 37	<hr/> 15

No defects were found and none were referred by H.M. Inspector of Factories.

Smoke Abatement.

The Clean Air Act came into force on the last day of the year. Local Authorities now have the power to define smoke Control Areas, where only smokeless fuels may be used. I feel that the redevelopment of the Long Rows offers this Council an excellent opportunity to establish a Smoke Control Area right in the centre of the town. Once established this area could be gradually increased to cover the whole of the town. No doubt there would be considerable opposition to this scheme as the majority of the people remain unconvinced of the merits of smokeless fuels and are indifferent to the atmospheric pollution produced by themselves—except for some housewives on washdays who grumble about the smuts (from their own chimneys) on their “whites.”

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1956.

The above regulations became fully operative on the 1st July. Important new provisions affect Food Premises and persons engaged in the handling of food.

Little progress had been made by the end of the year, as it seems that traders are awaiting a visit by your Inspector with definite proposals and instructions for what shall be done to comply with the regulations. It is hoped that by the end of 1957 most Food Premises will have affected any necessary alterations to comply with these important Regulations.

Finally I would mention the Sanitary Inspectors (Change of Designation) Act, 1956, which decrees that henceforth we shall be known as “Public Health Inspector.”

Yours faithfully,

L. WILSON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Inspector.



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